

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (original) A liquid crystal display including a backlight device which comprises a housing in which at least one tube-like fluorescent lamp is present, characterized in that the housing forms a substantially dustproof space, and in that part of the lamp extends outside the housing through a wall of said housing, which wall abuts against the lamp in a substantially dust-tight manner at the location where the lamp passes through the wall.
2. (original) A liquid crystal display as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that said wall abuts against the glass, light-transmitting part of the lamp in a substantially dust-tight manner.
3. (currently amended) A liquid crystal display as claimed in ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, characterized in that said wall comprises a flexible material which abuts against the lamp.
4. (original) A liquid crystal display as claimed in claim 3, characterized in that said flexible material is a synthetic foam material.

5. (currently amended) A liquid crystal display as claimed in claim 3~~or 4~~, characterized in that said wall comprises two parallel plates, preferably metal plates, between which the flexible material is arranged.

6. (original) A liquid crystal display as claimed in claim 5, characterized in that the recesses in each of the metal plates are larger than the recesses in the flexible material, through which recesses the lamp extends.

7. (currently amended) A liquid crystal display as claimed in ~~any one of the preceding claims~~claim 1, characterized in that said part of the lamp extends into a channel through which air can flow.

8. (original) A liquid crystal display as claimed in claim 7, characterized by a fan which is capable of generating an air flow through the channel.

9. (currently amended) A liquid crystal display as claimed in ~~any one of the preceding claims~~claim 1, characterized in that the housing abuts against a diffuser plate.

10. (currently amended) A backlight device, in particular for a liquid crystal display as claimed in ~~any one of the preceeding~~ ~~claims~~claim 1, which backlight device comprises a housing in which at least one lamp is present, characterized in that the housing forms a substantially dustproof space, that part of the lamp extends outside the housing through the wall of said housing and that said wall abuts against the lamp in a substantially dust-tight manner at the location where the lamp extends through the wall.

11. (original) A method of lighting a liquid crystal display including a backlight device comprising a housing in which at least one lamp is present, in which the lamp lights the liquid crystal matrix from the rear, characterized in that the housing forms a substantially dustproof space, that part of the lamp extends outside the housing through the wall of said housing and that said wall abuts against the lamp in a substantially dust-tight manner at the location where said lamp extends through the wall.